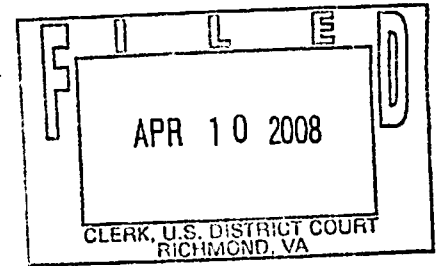


**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION**



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

v.

CASE NO. 3:08CR172

TOMAS ALBERTO PINEDA-MEJIA,

Defendant.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

This matter is before the court pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (b)(3) upon the Defendant's request to enter a plea of guilty pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11. The matter was presented to the court upon the written consent of the Defendant and counsel for the Defendant to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge, said consent including the Defendant's understanding that he consented to not only having the Magistrate Judge conduct the hearing and enter any order of forfeiture, if applicable, but also to having the Magistrate Judge make necessary findings and accepting any guilty plea as may be entered that could not be withdrawn except for fair and just reason.

The Defendant pled guilty to a One Count Indictment in open court and pursuant to a Rule 11 inquiry. Upon consideration of the responses and statements made by the Defendant under oath, on the record, and statement of facts presented, the court makes the following findings:

1. That the Defendant is competent to enter a plea of guilty;
2. That the Defendant understands the nature of the charge against him to which his

plea is offered;

3. That the Defendant understands what the maximum possible penalties are upon conviction of the offense charged, including any mandatory minimum periods of confinement, the effect of any required term of supervised release, the loss of various civil rights (if applicable, including the right to vote, the right to hold public office, the right to own and possess a firearm), the possibility of adverse immigration consequences (if applicable), the required imposition of a special assessment, forfeiture of real and/or personal property (if applicable), and restitution (if applicable);
4. That the Defendant understands the federal sentencing guidelines may be considered by the court with regard to the imposition of sentence and that the sentencing court may depart from any recommended level;
5. That the Defendant understands his right to persist in a plea of not guilty and require that the matter proceed to trial with all the rights and privileges attending a trial, including, but not limited to: the right to effective assistance of counsel; the right to use the power and processes of the court to compel evidence on the Defendant's behalf; the right to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to present relevant evidence; the right to remain silent; and the right to trial by jury; and
6. That the plea of guilty entered by the Defendant was knowingly and voluntarily made with full knowledge of the consequences and with an independent basis in fact to support said plea.

Accordingly, the court accepted the Defendant's plea of guilty to a One Count Indictment

and entered judgment of guilt on the subject charge. It is therefore the recommendation of this court that its findings, including the acceptance of the Defendant's plea of guilt and resulting judgment of guilt, be adopted.

Let the Clerk forward a copy of this report and recommendation to the Honorable Robert E. Payne and to counsel of record.

It is so Ordered.

<p style="text-align: center;">_____ /s/ Dennis W. Dohnal United States Magistrate Judge</p>
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Dated: APR 10 2008

NOTICE

The Defendant is advised that he may file specific written objection to this report and recommendation with the court within ten (10) days of this date. If objection is noted, the party objecting must promptly arrange for the transcription of the relevant record and file it forthwith with the court for its use in any review. Failure to object in accordance with this notice, including the requirement for preparation of a transcription of the relevant portions of the record, will constitute a waiver of any right to *de novo* review of the matter and may result in adoption of the recommendation, including the finding of guilt as entered by the magistrate judge.